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Leaflet Regarding Rules of Publication.—CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE has prepared a leaflet explaining its rules regarding publication. This leaflet gives suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts and of illustrations. It is suggested that contributors to this Journal write to its office requesting a copy of this leaflet.

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EDITORIALS†

MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS

Medical Preparedness Is Not an Imaginary Need.—Physicians who have been reading recent reports on the progress of Medical Preparedness—as outlined in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, and other medical publications—must certainly and before now have come to the conclusion that the American Medical Association Committee on Medical Preparedness, working through the constituent state medical associations and they, in turn, through component county medical societies, is in deep earnest in its efforts to promote every measure that can assist the medical corps of the United States Army and Navy to meet, in full-est measure, their present and future obligations.

* * *

Significance of Medical Preparedness.—In all massive projects, such as that of Medical Preparedness for the United States, a beginning must be made somewhere.

Medical Preparedness—the term is used here in the broad sense of the highest type of service in both military and civil work, even though at the present moment the military phases seem paramount—deals primarily, as regards personnel, with licensed physicians and their professional qualifications. It becomes immediately evident, therefore, why accurate knowledge concerning physicians should be available to the constituted national authorities, upon whom will fall the task of selection of the medical men for specific types of service.

Keeping in mind the peaceful relations which the United States has maintained with other nations on the American continents, it is understandable why, at the present time, commanding officers and staffs of the medical corps of the Army and Navy do not have in their files in Washington, and elsewhere, much informative data concerning the 175,382 physicians licensed to practice in one or more states of the Union. California, for instance, according to the *American Medical Directory*, 1940 edition, has 11,909 physicians authorized to practice and care for the 6,873,688 citizens of the Golden State. Of this number of physicians, 6,507 are members of the California Medical Association.

† Editorials on subjects of scientific and clinical interest, contributed by members of the California Medical Association, are printed in the Editorial Comment column which follows.

Action of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association.—Shortly after the existing emergencies for an M-Day arose, the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association was in session in New York City, and that body instructed its officers to give prompt and fullest coöperation to the Surgeons General of the United States Army, Navy and Public Health Services, to the end that all needs of the Government might be adequately met. That is why the American Medical Association questionnaires were sent to every licensed physician in the United States, with a request that the information desired be forwarded promptly to the American Medical Association headquarters at 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago. Unfortunately, the significance of the questionnaire was not sensed by many physicians. The California Medical Association will still send the necessary blanks to all requesting them, and physicians who have not mailed their questionnaires to Chicago are again urged to do so. California's record in this matter must eventually compare favorably with those of other state medical associations. At the time of this writing, however, it does not, for only about 54 per cent of California physicians have replied.

* * *

Important Meeting in Chicago on September 20.—On Friday, September 20, Doctor Philip K. Gilman of San Francisco, chairman of the California Committee on Medical Preparedness, and Doctor Charles A. Dukes of Oakland, a member of the American Medical Association committee, attended a meeting at Chicago at which representatives of the United States Army, Navy and Public Health Services explained the status of existing preparations, with special reference to plans for future needs. The *Journal of the American Medical Association* will no doubt print digests of the proceedings, and physicians who are interested should take the time to peruse the reports as they appear.

It has been estimated that it will be necessary to withdraw from civil practice, for service in the military arms of the Government, between five to ten thousand physicians, and it is the hope that this objective may be realized with a minimum of disturbance to civil needs, and a maximum of fulfillment in military objectives. The officers of the California Medical Association consequently urge all members to give wholehearted coöperation as needs may arise, by responding promptly to requests for information and work. Additional information concerning these activities is given on page 182.

COMPULSORY HEALTH INSURANCE: PROSPECTIVE REAPPEARANCE IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF JANUARY, 1941

A Recent Statement.—On page 107 of last month's issue, under the caption, "No Compulsory Health Initiative in 1940," CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE called attention to the fact that the threatened initiative for a compulsory health insurance law, to be voted on at the coming November election, had not materialized. But, as

repeatedly stated in editorial and other comments, the battle with proponents of a compulsory health insurance system for California is not over. No better evidence is needed for this conclusion than a broadcast by Governor Culbert L. Olson, so recent as October 1 and reported in the press, in which he said: "I should like to hope that the next legislature would tackle the problem of health insurance."

* * *

A Compulsory Health Bill Will Probably Be Submitted to the Next Legislature.—In the legislature of 1939, the State Administration submitted a compulsory health insurance plan that was publicized as one of its "must pass" measures. The proposed statute did not pass, but that does not mean that the sponsors of such a law have given up hope of its enactment in the near future.

Wherefore, it behooves members of the medical profession to acquaint themselves with the attitude, concerning public health problems, of candidates who seek election to the California Senate and Assembly. Only those aspirants for office whose past records indicate that they are in harmony with measures that make for the advancement of scientific medicine should receive the support of physicians.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL REPORTS BY COMPONENT COUNTY SOCIETIES: CHANGE IN PROCEDURE

Lesser Size of the Official Journal Creates New Conditions.—The lesser size of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE—made necessary in order to lessen printing expenses—has led the Committee on Publications to consider how best to maintain the various departments of the OFFICIAL JOURNAL without materially reducing its informative text. At a recent meeting of the Committee the department for county society letters was carefully considered, and after discussion the conclusion was reached that the space heretofore devoted to county society letters from only a very few of the forty component county units could be made to bring a larger and better return to the Association if, in lieu of a few letters from a limited group, more comprehensive reports on a year's work from each of the forty societies were printed in December issues.

To attain this end, suggestive forms will be sent, in due course, to all county societies. Under the present system the State Officers and the headquarter's office have only sparse information concerning the activities of many of the component units. With proper coöperation, it is believed the factual data desired and actually needed could be made to be of greater value to all Association officers, while the recital of achievements by vigorous county societies would be of suggestive service and have a more stimulating effect for component units whose members were missing some of their opportunities for broader service. The indulgence of county societies, therefore, which in the past have sent in monthly letters, is requested until the new plan has been given a trial. At the same time, thanks are rendered for coöperation already given.